

REMARKS

Claims 1-11 and 13-23 are currently pending in the subject application and are presently under consideration. Claims 1, 3, 16, 17 and 22 have been amended as shown on pp. 2-6 of the Reply. Claims 2 and 19 have been canceled.

Applicants' representative thanks the Examiner for the courtesies extended during the teleconference of November 20, 2007.

Favorable reconsideration of the subject patent application is respectfully requested in view of the comments and amendments herein.

I. Rejection of Claims 1-11 and 13-23 Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1-11 and 13-23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Card *et al* (US Patent No. 7,069,518), in view of Johnson *et al* (US Publication 2003/0132953), in further view of Fredlund *et al* (US Publication No. 2003/0128287). It is respectfully submitted that this rejection should be withdrawn for the following reasons. Card *et al.*, Johnson *et al.* and Fredlund *et al.*, individually or in combination, do not teach or suggest each and every element set forth in the subject claims.

Applicants' claimed subject matter relates to systems and methods that facilitate previewing content of stacked or grouped information displays in an efficient manner. Dynamically-generated collections of documents or files can be represented as single icons or entities, and form part of the next generation file system user interfaces. The subject invention provides a method for navigating the collection *via* an axial user interface controller such as a mouse wheel, for example, to interactively preview the contents of a group (such as a folder) in order to observe or review individual elements of the collection without navigating into (*e.g.*, double-clicking) the collection.

In one example aspect, the user moves a mouse cursor over a collection icon and a small preview image of the first document or page in the collection is shown. The user may then increment or decrement the axial controller to display the next (or former) document preview icon. A transitional animation can be employed to visually link the movement of the axial controller with the change in the displayed icon, wherein the user can quickly "flip" or scroll through many document previews quickly. When the user

moves the curser away from the collection icon, the currently selected preview image can be integrated with the collection icon as a reminder of collection contents.

As recited in independent claim 1 (and similarly independent claims 16, 17 and 22), a system that for displaying item collection previews, comprising: *at least one display object having metadata tags describing two or more data items in a collection of data items; a control component configured to selectively animate a presentation of the items based in part on the metadata tags and detected user activities; global controls for collecting unrelated items in a set of items to subsequently preview the items; and one or more controller inputs to control the presentation of the items, wherein a user utilizes the one or more controller inputs to navigate the collection of data items via selecting an item in the collection, selection of the item changes the order of the collection and moves the selected item to the front of the collection allowing the user to navigate the rest of the collection in a finer-grained manner starting at the selected item.* The cited references do not expressly or inherently disclose the aforementioned novel aspects of applicants' claimed subject matter as recited in the subject claims.

Card *et al.* discloses a system and method for displaying images of a virtual three-dimensional book having one or more virtual pages. The system comprises a display system capable of executing a display program. Images of the virtual three-dimensional book are produced on the display system. The display system may include a folding function, whereby a segment of a virtual page is displayed as at least partially folding backward from a surface of the display system. An animation may accompany the folding function, and an icon may be provided for unfolding a folded segment. (See col. 3, lines 5-15).

In contrast, applicants' claimed subject matter discloses a system for displaying item collection previews. The system includes an alternative for scrolling individually through a collection of items. A stack of items is depicted having a depth indicating a plurality of members in the stack (*e.g.*, 5,000 items shown as a ½ inch stack). Rather than individually scrolling through each member, a curser or other control is moved down or up the side of the stack and stops arbitrarily at a position as desired by the user. If a mouse is clicked, or the curser hovers for a predetermined amount of time at a position in the stack, the item at about the position marked can be moved (along with changing the

order of the stack) to the front of the stack. The user can subsequently use a mouse wheel or other control to scroll the stack beginning at the position selected. In this manner, large stacks can be navigated to an approximate starting position in a rough manner by a first movement, and subsequently scrolled in a finer-grained manner in a subsequent movement or control. (See pg. 10, line 21-pg. 11, line 3).

Card *et al.* merely discloses sliding-out virtual pages from a book. Sliding-out a virtual page only serves to display that virtual page in a different position on the computer display separate from the visual representation of the rest of the virtual three-dimensional book. Sliding-out does not denote the removal of data associated with a virtual page from its logical order in the electronic representation of a virtual three-dimensional book. A slide-out page will still appear in the electronic representation of the virtual three-dimensional book despite the fact it may appear separately from the virtual three-dimensional book on the display. (See col. 5, line 60-col. 6, line 6). Applicants' claimed system allows a user to navigate to a selected item and move the selected item to the front of the stack. The user can subsequently scroll through the stack beginning at the position selected. Thus, a user navigates to an approximate starting position in a rough manner by a first movement, and subsequently scrolls in a finer-grained manner in a subsequent movement or control. Accordingly, Card *et al.* does not expressly or inherently disclose a system for displaying item collection previews, comprising: ... ***wherein a user utilizes the one or more controller inputs to navigate the collection of data items via selecting an item in the collection, selection of the item changes the order of the collection and moves the selected item to the front of the collection allowing the user to navigate the rest of the collection in a finer-grained manner starting at the selected item.***

Furthermore, Johnson *et al.* does not make up for the aforementioned deficiencies of Card *et al.* with respect to independent claims 1, 16, 17 and 22. Johnson *et al.* discloses a system for acquiring commonly accessed information and presenting such information in a preconfigured format through a user interface that is common across various media players. (See pg. 1, paragraph [0009]).

Johnson *et al.* is cited by the Examiner to provide a metadata tag associated with each media file. (See Office Action dated 9-28-07, pp. 2-3). Applicants' claimed system

allows a user to navigate to a selected item and move the selected item to the front of the stack. The user can subsequently scroll through the stack beginning at the position selected. Thus, a user navigates to an approximate starting position in a rough manner by a first movement, and subsequently scrolls in a finer-grained manner in a subsequent movement or control. Accordingly, Johnson *et al.* also does not expressly or inherently disclose a system for displaying item collection previews, comprising: ... ***wherein a user utilizes the one or more controller inputs to navigate the collection of data items via selecting an item in the collection, selection of the item changes the order of the collection and moves the selected item to the front of the collection allowing the user to navigate the rest of the collection in a finer-grained manner starting at the selected item.***

Furthermore, Fredlund *et al.* does not make up for the aforementioned deficiencies of Card *et al.* and Johnson *et al.* with respect to independent claims 1, 16, 17 and 22. Fredlund *et al.* discloses a digital camera for capturing images to be provided to a lenticular apparatus. (See pg. 1, paragraph [0008]).

Fredlund *et al.* is cited by the Examiner for combining any sequence of unrelated images on a Lenticular card. (See Office Action dated 9-28-07, pg. 3). Applicants' claimed system allows a user to navigate to a selected item and move the selected item to the front of the stack. The user can subsequently scroll through the stack beginning at the position selected. Accordingly, Fredlund *et al.* also does not expressly or inherently disclose a system for displaying item collection previews, comprising: ... ***wherein a user utilizes the one or more controller inputs to navigate the collection of data items via selecting an item in the collection, selection of the item changes the order of the collection and moves the selected item to the front of the collection allowing the user to navigate the rest of the collection in a finer-grained manner starting at the selected item.***

In view of the aforementioned deficiencies of the cited references, it is respectfully submitted that this rejection be withdrawn with respect to claims 1-11 and 13-23. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that these claims be deemed allowable.

CONCLUSION

The present application is believed to be in condition for allowance in view of the above comments and amendments. A prompt action to such end is earnestly solicited.

In the event any fees are due in connection with this document, the Commissioner is authorized to charge those fees to Deposit Account No. 50-1063 [MSFTP544US].

Should the Examiner believe a telephone interview would be helpful to expedite favorable prosecution, the Examiner is invited to contact applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

AMIN, TUROCY & CALVIN, LLP

/Himanshu S. Amin/

Himanshu S. Amin

Reg. No. 40,894

AMIN, TUROCY & CALVIN, LLP
24TH Floor, National City Center
1900 E. 9TH Street
Cleveland, Ohio 44114
Telephone (216) 696-8730
Facsimile (216) 696-8731